



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF MEMPHIS GETS \$150K GRANT TO START CITY YEAR NEW SITE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

MEMPHIS, TN – MEMPHIS, TN – The City of Memphis received a \$150,000 grant from a local philanthropist to fund its efforts to become a City Year site. City Year is a corporation for national and community service sponsored AmeriCorp program that partners with public schools to help keep students in school and on track to graduate.

City Year's new site development process generally spans two years and involves building relationships with local leaders, school administrators, parents, citizens, students, financial partners, and stakeholders.

City Year AmeriCorps members commit to a year of full-time service in schools, where they work as tutors, mentors, and role models for grades 3 through 9. Last school year, City Year was in 25 cities and 242 schools with 2,700 corps members serving 150,000 students. City Year focuses on communities where the need is greatest (dropout rate over 25%), serving mainly in the lowest performing 5% of schools in the respective state.

"We have wanted to bring City Year to Memphis for several years now. I am so grateful to our partners that have worked long and hard to make this happen. City Year will have an incredible impact on our students, advancing our local efforts around the White House's My Brother's Keeper initiative and one of my top priorities as Mayor, investing in our young people." Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.

The City worked with Teacher Town, a consortium of organizations focused on improving K-12 public education to make the opportunity available to principals and teachers in Shelby County Schools, the Achievement School District and principals and charter operators in the 68 schools where test scores are lowest in the city.

City Year is part of the AmeriCorps national service network. The City of Memphis currently coordinates VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) and NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), also AmeriCorps programs. These programs focus on building capacity for local non-profits and urban revitalization in city neighborhoods.

"Bringing City Year to Memphis is further evidence of Memphis's commitment to being a 'City of Service' and using high impact volunteering and national service to address tough local issues," Mayor Wharton said.

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A 2013-14 evaluation conducted by Johns Hopkins University and Communities In Schools found the following results in 29 schools located in 11 urban school districts:

- 41% reduction in the number of students with attendance below 85%
- 62% reduction in the number of students with suspensions
- 58% reduction in the number of students failing English
- 54% reduction in the number of students failing math

Links to City Year videos:

AmeriCorps Insights - "My Humanity is Tied to Yours":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph0DmlSkWIs&index=1&list=PLQmnJ-zhcZRAGdgkrMDL5nQTQ1Skicdy0>

"Every Child Is Born with Potential": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgQGd5EJJSw>

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Under the leadership of Mayor A C Wharton Jr. since 2009, Memphis is becoming a City of Choice by focusing on creating safe and vibrant neighborhoods, investing in young people, creating economic opportunities for all, and delivering excellence in government. Memphis is famous around the world for the convergence of creativity and innovation that produced its most famous exports – legendary music; the company that invented modern world commerce – FedEx, and the international leader in curing catastrophic childhood illnesses – St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. It has a celebrated entrepreneurial history, more Fortune 500 companies than any other Tennessee city, and it has been named one of the best cities in the U.S. for startups. It is famous as home for Elvis Presley’s Graceland, Sun Studios, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Beale Street, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the most unspoiled riverfront on the Mississippi River. City of Memphis, which employs more than 6,000 people with an annual budget of approximately \$650 million, has developed and led programs that have dramatically reduced crime, increased jobs, improved Memphis’ quality of life, and attracted national attention and investments in the city. For more information visit www.memphistn.gov.